

Paterson, 77. "Kids that are going to be caught by Jon's books are not going to be caught by my books."

Corey Shaw, 10, a fifth-grader at Brent Elementary School—one of three Capitol Hill schools that sent about a dozen students each to the ceremony—has read both "Terabithia" and Scieszka's "Tut, Tut." He gave thumbs up to both.

"It's actually a very important and surprising book," Corey said of "Tut, Tut," about a trip back in time to ancient Egypt.

Of "Terabithia," about a boy and a girl who invent a magical land together, Corey said: "The ending was very sad. Then I thought about it, and it's not that bad. You have to remember that you have to get over things."

Indeed, many of the other students also turned out to be what you might call Stinky Cheese Terabithians, fans of both the incoming and outgoing ambassadors, which helped Librarian of Congress James Billington and the others behind the ambassadorships make their larger point. The ambassador's role is to raise national awareness about the importance of young people's literature in getting young readers off to a good start. By picking two such different writers as the first two ambassadors, the program reminds parents that there are many different ways to be a reader, Billington said.

"Read for your life," Paterson told the young people in the audience. "Read for your life as a member of a family, as a part of a community, as a citizen of this country and a citizen of the world."

Meanwhile, reading rates among young people are in decline, while there has been an uptick in reading among adults, according to the latest figures released by the National Endowment for the Arts. Just over half of 9-year-olds, fewer than a third of 13-year-olds and about one-in-five 17-year-olds read almost every day for fun, the NEA reported in 2007.

The ambassador's responsibilities amount to making appearances at major book events around the country to evangelize for young reading—which Paterson has been doing for 30 years. "It will sound a little fancier now that I have this medal," she said.

A selection committee of children's book experts and the outgoing ambassador recommended Paterson to Billington. Sponsors of the ambassador program include the library's Center for the Book and the Children's Book Council, a nonprofit trade association. Several publishers also underwrite expenses.

Paterson's works include "Jacob Have I Loved," "The Great Gilly Hopkins," "Bread and Roses, Too," and, most recently, "The Day of the Pelican," about a refugee family's escape from the war in Kosovo to the United States.

Paterson lives in Barre, Vt., but inspiration for "Terabithia" came when she lived in Takoma Park. Her son David had a best friend, Lisa Hill, and the pair played imaginative games in Sligo Creek Park. While away on vacation, Lisa was struck and killed by lightning. Paterson wrote "Terabithia" to make sense of the tragedy, with protagonists named Leslie and Jess.

Before the ceremony in the library, David Paterson walked up to the rows of students. Katherine Paterson's four children, seven grandchildren and husband had come to watch her be honored.

"How many kids have read 'Bridge to Terabithia'?" he asked. Nearly 30 hands shot up. "You can tell your friends you met the original Jess."

Charlotte Harrington gasped. She's 9, a fourth-grader at St. Peter's Interparish School. "Terabithia" is one of her favorite books. "It starts out miserable, and then

goes joyous, then goes downhill, then uphill," she said after David Paterson walked away.

When it was Charlotte's turn to get "Bread and Roses, Too," signed by Paterson, the girl told the author, "I loved 'Bridge to Terabithia.' It's one of the best books ever."

The Charlottes of the nation don't need an ambassador. But she and her friends had plenty of ideas for the new ambassador on hooking reluctant young readers.

"Give them a book that shows them what they feel like," said Fiona Campbell, 9, a fourth-grader at St. Peter's.

Isn't that what Paterson and Scieszka both have been doing, after their own fashion? Afterwards, they laughed about being such an odd couple.

"I think the No. 3 [ambassador] should be different from both of us!" Paterson said. "The variety of books is a wonder to behold, but we also have a variety of readers."

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BUFFALO BILL DAM

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, during the 57th Congress, our predecessors passed the Newland Reclamation Act that changed the landscape of arid Western States. Part of the 1902 act, which created the Reclamation Service, included funding for a dam in a narrow, 70-foot gorge in the Shoshone Canyon, 6 miles from Cody, WY.

The construction of the Shoshone Dam began in 1905. Workers used 78,576 cubic feet of rubble concrete to build the massive structure. When work was completed on January 15, 1910, the Shoshone Dam was the world's highest concrete arch dam at 325 feet. The total bill for the dam was \$1,345,000.

Water from the Shoshone River filled a reservoir that covered an area 10 miles long and 4 miles wide—over 300,000 acres of land. Promotional brochures published during the early years boasted that the dam and reservoir created a "healthful, invigorating and enjoyable climate with an abundance of sunshine and irrigation water." Further, in an effort to draw enterprising farmers to the basin, they stated the area is "immune from storms and that tornadoes and cyclones are unknown in the region."

The 79th Congress once again passed legislation affecting the dam—this time to rename it for one of the West's favorite sons: William F. Cody. In 1946, the Shoshone Dam formally became the Buffalo Bill Dam. While Buffalo Bill may be most famous for his Wild West Show in the early 1900s, he had the vision to harness the Shoshone River to open the area for development. Cody and his colleagues had big dreams to build more than 50 miles of canals and irrigate more than 150,000 acres. He was only able to bring water to 6,000 acres before his finances and stamina ran out. However, it was because he saw the region's potential that the dam was initially built.

Those of us who are fortunate to call Wyoming home have a great appreciation for the opportunity to live with, utilize and benefit from the Buffalo Bill Dam. It is a positive presence in the world of the West.

Last week marked the tremendous structure's 100th birthday. We remember the ingenuity, courage and foresight of the men and women who made the dam possible. It changed the near desert landscape into one that supports a wide range of agricultural and recreational activities. We often say Wyoming is what America was. The Buffalo Bill Dam is a great reminder of this.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO CHUCK MACK

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, as Chuck Mack is honored by the Teamsters Joint Council 7, I take this opportunity to commend him for his tireless and dedicated service to the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

Chuck Mack first joined the Teamsters as a seasonal plant worker for Del Monte in the summer of 1960. A few years later, he was elected business agent at Local 70 in Oakland, CA. In 1971, Chuck transitioned to a position in Sacramento, working as a lobbyist for the California Teamsters Public Affairs Council. The following year, he returned to Local 70, where he was elected as secretary-treasurer. For the next 27 years, until he retired in 2009, Mr. Mack served as Local 70's secretary-treasurer, where he was a strong and passionate advocate for bay area workers and their families.

Though serving as secretary-treasurer for Local 70 was a full-time job, Mr. Mack further showed his commitment to the International Brotherhood of Teamsters by also serving as the president of Joint Council 7 from 1982 until 2009—the second longest-serving Joint Council president in history. Mr. Mack also held several other distinguished positions during his tenure with the Teamsters, including: vice president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Western Region; IBT director of Port Division; and Western Conference of Teamsters Pension trustee. Though retired from many of his positions since June 2009, Mr. Mack continues to serve as the co-chair of the Western Conference of Teamsters Pension Trust.

Mr. Mack is known for his integrity and strong work ethic. From his humble beginnings with the Teamsters in the 1960s, Mr. Mack has worked for more than 40 years to help negotiate first-class rights for workers and their families throughout California. It is through his efforts that some of the strongest rights for workers have been won, including good jobs with good wages, access to health care, and fair and just contracts.

I have known Chuck Mack for many years, and I am continually inspired by his dedication to the labor movement. As a stalwart defender of equal rights and a champion for workers everywhere, I wish him many more years of continued community involvement and leadership.●